

25/04/2025

Archbishop Nikitas presides at Epitaphios Service in the new Church, Monastery of St John the Baptist, Essex



On Holy and Great Friday, 18th April 2025, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain presided over Matins and the Service of the Epitaphios Lamentations at the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of St John the Baptist in Essex.

The service was held in the monastery's newly built church, which is scheduled to be consecrated on 22nd June 2025. This marked the first Holy Friday service in the new space; an occasion of profound spiritual and historical significance.

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas was received by the Abbot of the Monastery, the V. Revd Archimandrite Petros, along with the brotherhood, sisterhood, and many

faithful pilgrims who had gathered to participate in the solemn commemoration of the Lord's Burial.

With deep reverence, the Lamentations were sung before the Epitaphios of Christ, drawing the faithful into the heart of the mystery of Holy Friday. The quiet dignity of the monastic setting and the beauty of the newly constructed church amplified the deep contrition of the service.

At the conclusion, Archbishop Nikitas offered words of reflection, emphasising the the sacred stillness of the monastic community and w church, which stands as a



























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